

VETERANS DAY

IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

November 11, 2017



"To care for him who shall have borne the battle..."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



www.va.gov



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide this Teacher Resource Guide. It is our hope that by thanking America's Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, we can reward them with the honor they so richly deserve.

Veterans Day 2017

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For Teachers

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Veterans Day 2017

The logo for Veterans Day 2017 features the word "Veterans" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. A black silhouette of a soldier in a combat stance is integrated into the letter "e". Below "Veterans" is the word "Day" in the same font, followed by the year "2017" where the "1" and "7" are in a bold, black font and the "0" is in a lighter weight. To the right of the year is a stylized graphic of the American flag, with the stripes represented by wavy lines and the stars by a series of small dots.

Teacher Resources



VETERANS DAY

IN THIS TIME OF THE YEAR
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2017 Veterans Day School and Teacher Resource Guide. As Veterans Day approaches, we hope you will help your students connect with the brave servicemembers of our present and past. We can all better value the freedoms we have because of the men and women who have served in defense of our nation.

There are nearly 20 million Veterans living among us, in every state and territory and from every walk of life. Many of the students in your class may be the son, daughter, cousin, or relative of a Veteran or current service member. By engaging in discussion about these crucial members of our society, your students will be able to hear from and about those who helped shape American history. Our hope is that students will be encouraged to learn more of these often unheard stories from those close to them.

This resource guide, along with another group of America's finest — you as teachers — will allow your students, on Veterans Day, to learn more about the price these brave servicemembers have paid to defend our nation.

Thanks again and please join us in remembering our veterans on Veterans Day, November 11, 2017.

THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:

Because the weather can be quite cold in November in many parts of the country, an indoor assembly is far more sensible than one that would take place outside, eliminating the need for foul weather plans.



The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community, to include local Veterans groups. Students can be encouraged to bring family members that are Veterans (especially parents, siblings or grandparents) or currently in the Armed Forces.

Lt. Col. Walter C. Sopp, speaks with 3-year-old children from Preschool of America during Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11, 2009. (Photo by United States Marines)

Inviting local Veterans groups:

Inviting local Veterans groups makes assembly programs far more exciting and meaningful for students. Students tend to better understand and absorb the significance of Veterans Day when they can attach a human face to it.

In addition, Veterans groups often put on very exciting shows. From stirring renditions of the National Anthem and Taps to thrilling speeches and stories, Veterans, as guests, will both entertain and educate students.

You can find Veterans groups in your area through your local Veterans service organization chapters and VA hospitals. You might be surprised at how many Veterans live in your area. Schools that send out invitations often end up with former generals and admirals, Medal of Honor recipients and other distinguished guests coming to speak. A listing of Veterans organizations appears on page 9 of this guide. Or visit www.va.gov/vso/ for an online directory of Veterans' groups.



Program Guide:

Undoubtedly, your school will want to put on a program worthy of all these distinguished guests. The following are some suggestions and a sample program guide that will make this Veterans Day memorable for both students and guests:

Prelude and Posting of Colors — As the audience enters to be seated, a school or community musical organization may offer several appropriate selections. A procession and posting of the nation's colors (the U.S. flag) is a stirring event. Local Veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of military banners and American flags.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and singing of the National Anthem — The program chairperson, school principal or student body president, should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Introductory Remarks — Brief introductory remarks set the tone for the program. Consider reading the President's Veterans Day Proclamation, which the White House issues and posts on the internet shortly before Veterans Day. For more information, please visit: www.whitehouse.gov.

Additional remarks and suitable quotations for speeches can be found on the Veterans Day Web site www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/ or use those featured in this guide.

Introduction of Guests — Introduce any special guests, which might include local government officials, school alumni with distinguished military service, Veterans from the community who represent different periods of service and faculty members who are Veterans.

Principal Speaker —

Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program.

Student Essay or Reading — Including various presentations by individual pupils in school programs, student body participation may be increased. Selected essays from class or school-wide competitions may be offered by the student-author. A reading of a well-known patriotic address by an American President or military hero is also effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which can enhance your program. A short play or skit performed by the younger students can be exciting as well.

Moment of Silence, Taps — While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America's living veterans, and is typically observed more as a celebration than as a somber remembrance (Memorial Day), it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for our country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded cease fire and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11:00 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by a rendition of "Taps." For more information on the history of Taps please visit www.tapsbugler.com.

Closing — The Master of Ceremonies announces "Retire the Colors." Accompanied by appropriate music, such as a John Philip Sousa march, the Colors are paraded out of the assembly area. This concludes the ceremony.

“TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS”

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, organized a Veterans Day parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's Veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all who have served in America's Armed Forces.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of the annual Veterans Day poster and this Teacher Resource Guide



June 1, 1954: President Eisenhower signs HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Standing are: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts.

Eisenhower Presidential Library

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11th date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds “Taps.” The balance of the ceremony, including a “Parade of Flags” by numerous Veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VETERANS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY?

Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a two minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

On October 7, 2016, President Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The new law requires that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time, 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time, 1:11 p.m. central standard time, 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time, 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time, 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time, and 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.



"Honoring all who served"

“A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD”

In 1921, an American soldier—his name “known but to God”—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America’s veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the Great War was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

Photo by Pete Souza





National Cemetery Administration Veterans Legacy Program



DISCOVER THEIR STORY ★ ★ ★ HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE



A National Legacy

At VA, we seek to engage educators, students, researchers, and the general public to build an appreciation of what earlier generations have given to the nation and help us understand why this ground is set aside as "national shrines to the gallant dead."

The Veterans Legacy Program proudly shares the stories of all Americans who served.

TEACH USING VA NATIONAL CEMETERIES

- As you develop your curriculum for the fall, explore our [five new digital lesson plans](#), teacher-developed and standards aligned.
- Lesson plans are built on primary sources, contain colorful hand-outs and lesson extensions, and provide ideas for on-site learning!
- Additional lesson plans are being developed to invite learners to explore their local history. Keep checking the website.
- If you are interested in participating in one of NCA's teacher institutes, please contact us for information



**Contact the Veterans
Legacy Program**

VeteransLegacyProgram@va.gov

Connect With Us

For More Information, tools and resources visit our [website](#).



WORLD WAR I

(1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....4,734,991
 Battle Deaths.....53,402
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....63,114
 Non-mortal Woundings.....204,002



WORLD WAR II

(1941 - 1946)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....16,112,566
 Battle Deaths.....291,557
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....113,842
 Non-mortal Woundings.....670,846
 Living Veterans.....771,000



KOREAN WAR

(1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....5,720,000
 Battle Deaths.....33,739
 Other Deaths (in Theater).....2,835
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....17,672
 Non-mortal Woundings.....103,284
 Living Veterans.....1,637,000



VIETNAM WAR

(1964 - 1973)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....8,744,000
 Battle Deaths.....47,434
 Other Deaths (in Theater).....10,786
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....32,000
 Non-mortal Woundings.....153,303
 Living Veterans.....6,835,000



GULF WAR

(1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....2,225,000
 Battle Deaths.....147
 Other Deaths (in Theater).....235
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....1,565
 Non-mortal Wounding's.....467
 Living Veterans.....2,269,000



WAR ON TERROR

(2001 - PRESENT)

The War on Terror, including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are ongoing conflicts. For the most recent statistics, please visit the following Department of Defense Web site:
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties_oef.xhtml



Retired Sgt. 1st Class Lou Mitchell, a Korean and Vietnam War veteran” (Photo by Marines)



Sergeant Adam LaRose, a OEF veteran meets with a WWII veteran. (Photo by Nebraska Veteran Outreach)

HOW TO CONTACT VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION'S

Veterans service organizations are groups of Veterans that meet together to promote and support Veterans' issues. Many organizations consist of members that share a common experience, such as those that served in the same military unit or period of war. The following is a list of organizations that serve on the Veterans Day National Committee. Many of these groups have chapters throughout the country with Veterans who can share their experiences with younger generations.

Voting Members

[Air Force Sergeants Association](#)
[American G.I. Forum](#)
[AMVETS](#)
[Army Navy Union, USA](#)
[Blinded Veterans Association](#)
[Catholic War Veterans, USA](#)
[Commissioned Officers of the US Public Health Service](#)
[Congressional Medal of Honor Society](#)
[Disabled American Veterans](#)
[Fleet Reserve Association](#)
[Jewish War Veterans of the USA](#)
[Korean War Veterans Association](#)
[Legion of Valor of the USA](#)
[Marine Corps League](#)
[Military Chaplains Association of the USA](#)
[Military Officers Association of America](#)
[Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc.](#)
[Military Order of the World Wars](#)
[Non Commissioned Officers Association](#)
[Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
[Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA](#)
[The American Legion](#)
[The Retired Enlisted Association](#)
[Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States](#)
[Vietnam Veterans of America](#)

Associate Members

[Air Force Association](#)
[American Ex-Prisoners of War](#)
[American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.](#)
[American Red Cross](#)
[Association of the United States Navy](#)
[Blue Star Mothers of America](#)
[Bowlers to Veterans Link](#)
[Enlisted Association of the National Guard](#)
[Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.](#)
[Japanese American Veterans Association](#)
[National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs](#)
[National Association of State Veterans Homes](#)
[Navy Seabee Association](#)
[Pearl Harbor Survivors Association \(Emeritus\)](#)
[Reserve Officers Association](#)
[Student Veterans of America](#)
[US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association](#)
[Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge](#)
[Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition](#)
[Wounded Warrior Project](#)
[Women's Army Corps Veterans Association \(Emeritus status\)](#)



[The Survivors & Dependents Assistance Program](#) offers financial assistance to children, ages 16 – 26, of Army personnel who have been disabled or killed in the line of duty. The program is also open to the children of servicemembers who have been declared missing in action, or who have been detained as a prisoner of war. The program offers up to 45 months of educational benefits to eligible students who are enrolled in approved undergraduate, graduate, or vocational studies.

[The Spouse Education Assistance Program](#) provides grant money to the eligible spouses of active-duty or retired Army personnel. Applicants must be enrolled at least part-time in an accredited college or university. Scholarship funding is available for fall and spring semesters only.

[The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program](#). The program provides financial assistance to the children of active-duty and retired Air Force personnel. It also provides grants for the children and spouses of deceased service-members. This is a need-based grant, and current awards stand at \$2000.

[The Scholarship for Air Force Enlisted Member's Dependent Children](#) is supported by the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Airmen Memorial Foundation. These scholarships are available to the dependent children of active-duty, retired or veteran Air Force personnel. Scholarship awards are determined by academic achievement, service to the community, character and writing ability. Financial need is not a consideration. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$3000.

[The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society](#) provides financial support to Naval personnel, Marines, and their families. In addition to a number of interest free loans for service-members and their families, the Relief Society offers the following programs for the college-bound dependents of Navy and Marine personnel.

[The Joseph A. Mcalinden Divers Scholarship Program](#) is available to the children or spouses of active-duty Navy or Marine divers. Students must be studying oceanography, ocean agriculture or aquaculture in an approved college program. Awards range from \$500 to \$3000, and are determined by financial need.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Important Things to remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag is flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

Things not to do

Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

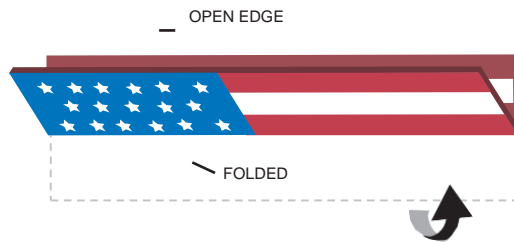
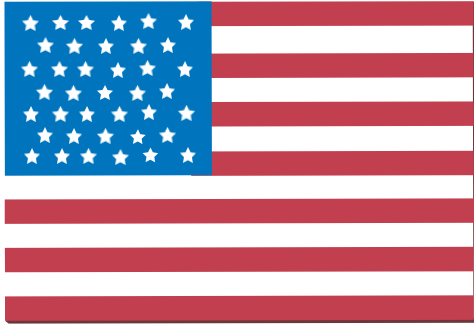
Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free — never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discarded; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which the flag is flown.

Architect of the Capitol. Photo by US Capitol



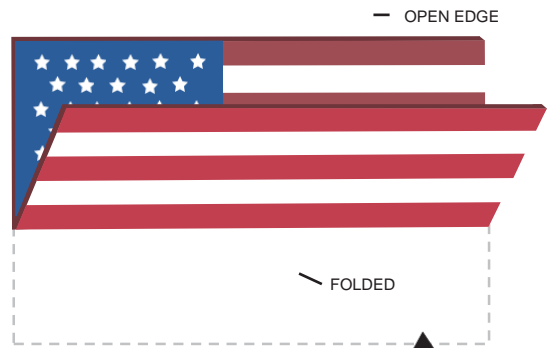
Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. Based on a photograph by Joseph Rosenthal, the Marine Corps War Memorial depicts this sacrifice. Located near Arlington National Cemetery, it is a tribute to all the Marines who have fallen in combat.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.



2017 Veterans Day National Committee

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The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States

Chairman

The Honorable David Shulkin
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Vice Chairman

The Honorable John Ullyot
Assistant Secretary of Public and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Members

Air Force Sergeants Association	American G.I. Forum	AMVETS	Army Navy Union, USA
Blinded Veterans Association	Catholic War Veterans, USA	Commissioned Officers of the US Public Health Service	Congressional Medal of Honor Society
Disabled American Veterans	Fleet Reserve Association	Jewish War Veterans of the USA	Korean War Veterans Association
Legion of Valor of the USA	Marine Corps League	Military Chaplains Association of the USA	Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc.	Military Order of the World Wars	Non Commissioned Officers Association	Paralyzed Veterans of America
Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA	The American Legion	The Retired Enlisted Association	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Vietnam Veterans of America			

Associate Members

Air Force Association	American Ex-Prisoners of War	American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.	American Red Cross
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Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.	Japanese American Veterans Association	National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs	National Association of State Veterans Homes
Navy Seabee Association			
US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Association	Pearl Harbor Survivors Association (Emeritus)	Reserve Officers Association	Student Veterans of America
Women's Army Corps Veterans Association (Emeritus)	Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge	Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. & The Veterans Coalition	Wounded Warrior Project

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